

SECRET

7

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

File No. C/551/10/69/JP

Volume

1

External Affairs

26

East Asia Division

NOTES/CORRESPONDENCE

Subject

Demand by several Members of Parliament for setting up a Fresh Enquiry Commission to probe afresh into the circumstances leading to disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Reconsidered

Notes corr p- 1-2
cor p no 1-7
page no 1-29

C-1986

May be retained for 3 years

16/3/83

Under Secretary
Ministry of External Affairs

18/9/83

Previous References

Later References

C/551/2/68/JP

Declassified

keep file now 3 yrs
Declassify
16/12/15

(Gautam Gupta)
(GAUTAM GUPTA)
उप सचिव (ए एन आर एम.)
Off. Secretary (A&RM)
विदेश विभाग, नई दिल्ली
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

RECEIVED
16/12/15
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Ministry of External Affairs
(East Asia Division)

.....

The Home Minister has convened a meeting with the MPs on November 20, 1969 at 9.30 A.M. in the Parliament House, Room No.62, regarding a fresh enquiry into the "Disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945".

2. F.S. has kindly agreed to attend the meeting in response to Home Ministry's request.

3. The relevant files are placed below for F.S.'s perusal. His attention is particularly invited to the latest Brief, the Enquiry Committee Report, and the Cabinet Decision. He may also kindly see the Prime Minister's minutes.

Manjit Singh
(Manjit Singh)
Director (EA)
19-11-69

F.S.

✓ vide F.R.

x Flag 'A' (L.F)

o Flag 'V'

* Flag 'B' (L.F)

= Flag 'X'

- 2 -

No.C/551/10/69/JP
Ministry of External Affairs
(East Asia Division)

2

Subject:- Demand by several Members of Parliament for setting up a Fresh Enquiry Commission to probe afresh into the circumstances leading to disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

D.10500-EAD/69

....

S.No.(1) F.R. *Pi-2/c*

"Discuss with Pps. please."

Sd/- Manjit Singh
20/8/69

OSD(EA)

S.NO. (2) - ISSUE *Pi-12/c*

Press clipping

Sno (3) Added

D. 5627 DEA/69

Sno (4) Added

Note by J. Leeg

Sno. (5) -

Added

Sno (6) - Issue

D. 5889 DEA/69

Sno. (7) F.R.



P.P. Caprihan,
Deputy Secretary.

Immediate

D.O. No. 10/21/CF-69.

मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय
(मंत्रिमंडल कार्य विभाग) 3
राष्ट्रपति भवन, नई दिल्ली
CABINET SECRETARIAT
(DEPARTMENT OF CABINET AFFAIRS)
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN
NEW DELHI

19th August, 1969.

My dear Manjit,

Kindly refer to Ministry of Home Affairs O.M. No. 19/50/68-Pub.II, dated the 7th March, 1968, forwarding minutes of the meeting held in the room of the Cabinet Secretary on the 17th February, 1968, to consider the Memorandum from Members of Parliament suggesting steps to be taken to accord honour and recognition to the personality of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. With reference to the demand made by Members of Parliament for fresh inquiry into the alleged death of Netaji, it was decided that no change was called for in the stand of the Government.

2. I enclose a copy of another representation received from several Members of Parliament on the same subject, which has been forwarded by Prime Minister to Cabinet Secretary for examination. Would you kindly let us have urgently a self-contained note for submission to Cabinet Secretary?

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

P.P. Caprihan
(P.P. Caprihan)

Shri Manjit Singh,
Director (South East Asia),
Ministry of External Affairs,
New Delhi.

Director (EA)
4471 168-050(EA)

Discuss with
Pps please

20/8/69

OSD (EA)
(P.P. Caprihan)

August 7, 1969. 4

Smt. Indira Gandhi,
Prime Minister of India,
NEW DELHI.

Dear Madam,

You will, we hope, remember that over 350 Members of Parliament made an earnest appeal to the Government to institute a fresh enquiry into the circumstances leading to disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Nearly 100 other Members of Parliament extended their oral support to the appeal as they were not present in Delhi at the time of submission of the Memorandum to the Government.

After a lapse of 20 years the Government of India very rightly considered it desirable to order for a fresh probe into the background of the murder of Mahatma Gandhi.

Recently the Government of India sympathetically agreed to a request made by a number of Parliament Members to institute a judicial enquiry into the cause of tragic death of Jan Sangh leader, Shri Dindayal Upadhyay.

We trust that in a similar patriotic spirit you will accept the appeal made to the Government by an overwhelming majority (nearly two-third majority) of the Members of the Parliament to set up a fresh Enquiry Commission, consisting of retired Supreme Court judges and eminent publicmen, to make fresh probe into the circumstances leading to disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

We fervently hope that the demand for a fresh enquiry about Netaji voiced by millions of our countrymen will not fail to evoke patriotic response from you. Let us not forget that a national duty to fulfil regarding Netaji is overdue.

Jai Hind!

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-

15. P.Venkatasubhaiah ✓	29. S.C. Samanta	1. N.G. Ranga.
16. Madhu Limaye	30. N.K. P. Salve ✓	2. D.K. Kunte ✓
17. Rabi Ray	31. Tridib Chaudhuri	3. Shashi Bhushan ✓
18. Bal Raj Madhok	32. Bedabrata Barua ✓	4. A.K. Chanda ✓
19. A.B. Vajpayee	33. Era Seshiyan	5. A.K. Sen ✓
20. S.M. Joshi ✓	34. Bakar Ali Mirza ✓	6. K.N. Tiwari
21. N.C. Chatterjee ✓	35. G.M. Bakshi ✓	7. A.S. Saigal
22. Humayun Kabir	36. M.M. Patel	8. T.S. Jadhav
23. Ila Pal Chaudhuri ✓	37. Sharda Mukerji	9. S.N. Dwivedy ✓
24. Samar Guha	38. J.K. Chaudhuri	10. Nath Pai ✓
25. Tenneti Viswanathan	39. B.K. Daschowdhury	11. V. Sambasivam
26. Mrityunjay Prasad	40. J. Chanda	12. K. Ambazhagan ✓
27. D.S. Raju	41. C.C. Desai	13. Karni Singh ✓
28. Susheela Rohtagi ✓	42. K.L. Gupta ✓	14. B.P. Mandal
	43. G.G. Swell ✓	
	44. P.V. Shastri	

(4)
6

ENQUIRY RELATING TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF
NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE IN AUGUST 1945.

Official Enquiry conducted in 1956:

In response to the public demand that all the facts relating to the last stages of Netaji's life should be enquired into and made known, an Enquiry Committee was appointed by the Government of India in April, 1956. The Committee consisted of Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose (elder brother of Netaji) and Shri S.N. Maitra, Chief Commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The report of this Committee, which was signed by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan and Shri S.N. Maitra, was released for publication in September, 1956. The Government of India accepted the report. The conclusion reached by the Enquiry Committee was that Netaji met his death as a result of an air crash at Taihoku airfield in Formosa on August 18, 1945 and that his ashes are now at the Renkoji Temple in Tokyo. However, the third member, namely, Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, did not sign the report. Later on, he submitted a separate report dissenting from the findings of the majority report. After laying a copy of this report on the table of the House on 11.9.1956, the late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, made a statement in the Lok Sabha in which he said inter alia that Government felt that the evidence adduced in the report was practically overwhelming and should be accepted.

Government's attitude to repeated requests for further probes:

2. There have been repeated requests and demands on several occasions for undertaking another enquiry. However, Government having accepted the findings of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee have taken the view that unless fresh evidence or new facts were brought to light, another enquiry was unwarranted. In the Rajya Sabha itself in 1966, in answer to Starred Question No.284 on 17.5.1966, and again in reply to Unstarred Question No.265 on 2.8.1966, the Government reiterated this viewpoint. Assertions that Swami Shardanand of the Sholmari Ashram was, in fact, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, had been denied by the Swami himself. Another claim made by Dr. S.N. Sinha that Netaji was incarcerated in cell No.46 of Yakutusk prison in Siberia has not been corroborated by any tangible evidence. Recently, Lt.-General Fujiwara of Japan, who came to India to present Netaji's sword, requested

that the matter should be investigated "once and for all". The General, however, has not produced any evidence which would warrant any further enquiry. The memorandum too refers to press reports of hearsay evidence published in 1945 and early 1956. These hearsay reports cannot warrant a fresh enquiry. It would be relevant to mention that Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, had in a letter to Shri Suresh Chandra Bose on May 13, 1962 said: "I cannot send you any precise and direct proof. But all the circumstantial evidence that has been produced and which has been referred to in the Enquiry Committee's Report has convinced us of the fact that Netaji has died. In addition to this, the lapse of time now and the extreme improbability of his being alive secretly when he would be welcome in India with great joy and affection adds to that circumstantial evidence".

Correspondence between Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Shri Suresh Bose and Shri Amiya Bose regarding further enquiry:

3. A set of the letters exchanged between Prime Minister Nehru and Shri Suresh Bose or Shri Amiya Bose are enclosed.

4. It is true that in his letter of April 22, 1964 Prime Minister Nehru 'agreed' with Shri Amiya Bose that something should be done to "finalise the question of Netaji's death". But he gave no assurance and there is nothing to suggest, in the context of the entire correspondence, that at any time Prime Minister Nehru had entertained doubts about the conclusive character of the evidence cited by the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee or others to establish Netaji's death. Presumably, what Shri Nehru had in mind was that something should be done to persuade those who still doubted this fact to accept the finality of the conclusion that Netaji was no more.

Decision on the Memorandum:

5. The memorandum was discussed at a meeting of Secretaries held under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary on the 17th February, 1968, to examine the various points raised. As far as the question of a fresh enquiry was concerned, the meeting was of the view that this was not warranted as no fresh evidence had been brought to light. This recommendation was brought to the Prime Minister's notice in connection with Unstarred Question No.1408 which was answered in the Lok Sabha on 21.2.1968. In

reply to the question, the Prime Minister had stated: "Since no new facts have been brought to light, Government do not consider that any fresh enquiry is warranted".

Recent requests for a Judicial Enquiry:

6. Shri Samar Guha wrote in May this year to the Prime Minister requesting for a judicial enquiry on the analogy of the enquiry being conducted in regard to Gandhiji's assassination 20 years after Mahatmaji's death. The Foreign Minister in reply to this letter informed Shri Guha that the terms of reference of the enquiry being conducted into Mahatma Gandhi's assassination did not seek to establish Gandhiji's death. In the letter sent to the Prime Minister by 44 M.Ps, dated August 7, the request for the appointment of a fresh enquiry Commission, consisting of retired Supreme Court judges and eminent public men, has been made on the ground that a fresh probe was being conducted in regard to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and that a judicial enquiry was also being conceded in response to a number of M.Ps' request into the cause of death of the Jan Sangh Leader Shri Dindayal Upadhyay. It is quite obvious that these two examples that have been cited are not on all fours with the demand for an enquiry to establish the death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

...

9
Suresh C. Bose.

Dated 12th May, 1962.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru,
Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

Dear Shri Nehru,

The report in the papers of the 8th instant is to the effect that you stated in Parliament on the previous day, in reply to a question by Shri P.C. Barooah that the majority report of the Netaji Enquiry Committee established that my brother Shri Subhas Chandra Bose, died in an air-accident.

If you hold this piece of news to be correct, it affects the members of our family more than the general public, who, however, are also deeply interested in its correctness or otherwise.

I would, therefore, request you as his elder brother and as the seniormost surviving member of the family to forward to me the proof of his death, together with the date, month, year, place and the circumstances under which such alleged death took place.

In the expectation of a reply and with kind regards,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-Suresh C. Bose
12.5.62.

No.704-PMH/62

May 13, 1962.

Dear Shri Suresh Bose,

I have your letter of the 12th May. You ask me to send you proof of the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. I cannot send you any precise and direct proof. But all the circumstantial evidence that has been produced and which has been referred to in the Enquiry Committee's report has convinced us of the fact that Netaji has died. In addition to this, the lapse of time now and the extreme improbability of his being alive secretly somewhere when he would be welcomed in India with great joy and affection, adds to that circumstantial evidence.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-Jawaharlal Nehru.

Shri Suresh C. Bose,
Garia,
P.O. Garia,
Distt. 24 Paragacas,
West Bengal.

SURESH C. BOSE

Garia, P.O. Garia,
Dist. 24 Parganas,
(West Bengal). -
Dated 8th August, 1962

Dear Shri Nehru,

It appears from your letter No.982-PMH/62
of the 26th June last, that your own information
conveyed to you by our Ambassadors has confirmed
the fact that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is dead.

As this piece of news, if true, virtually
affects all the members of our family. I would
respectfully request you to please forward to me
the date, place and circumstances under which the
alleged death took place, as reported to you.

With kind regards,

I remain,
Yours sincerely,
Suresh Chandra Bose.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru,
Prime Minister,
NEW DELHI.

No.1256-PMH/62

August 12, 1962

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Dear Shri Bose,

I have your letter of the 8th August, I wrote to you that all the circumstantial evidence made me believe that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had died. Much of this evidence was given in the report made by the Committee appointed for this purpose, which visited Japan. You will find the date, place and circumstances mentioned in that committee's report.

Apart from that report, the length of time that has elapsed is itself confirmatory of the fact of his death.

Yours sincerely,

Jawaharlal Nehru.

Shri Suresh C. Bose,
Garia,
P.O. Garia,
Dist. 24 Parganas.

13

1, WOODBURN PARK
CALCUTTA 20

My dear Panditji,

With reference to our talk in Delhi recently, I would like to submit to you the following proposals for your consideration.

The controversy regarding the aircrash at Taihoku in August 1945 is having unfortunate consequences. The report of the Enquiry Committee consisting of Shah Nawaz Khan and two other members has not found acceptance among a large section of the Indian people. The main reason for this is to be found in the fact that the Shah Nawaz Enquiry Committee did not include any person of high judicial standing and experience. Irresponsible statements by a number of persons are also keeping this controversy alive. In the national interest there should be a final judicial finding regarding the aircrash at Taihoku in August 1945. It will be in the fitness of things if the Chief Justice of India will agree to preside over a body of Judges and enquire into this question. All the materials collected by the Shah Nawaz Enquiry Committee on the subject and other materials that may be available to the Government of India should be placed at the disposal of this body of Judges. This body should, of course, be at liberty to take any further evidence on the subject if that is considered necessary by it and if such evidence is available.

The Government should accept the findings of this judicial body and take whatever steps that may be found necessary on the basis of its recommendations. This being purely a national question the Government should not take into account the opinion of any individual in this matter even though he happens to be related to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

I shall be thankful if you will kindly send me your message in support of the plans of Netaji Hall Society.

Hope you are feeling better.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-Amiya Nath Bose.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru,
Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

No.293-PMH/64

12
14
April 22, 1964.

My dear Amiya,

I have your letter of the 20th April,
I agree with you that something should be
done to finalise the question of Netaji's death.
But it is not quite clear to me how far it
will be proper for me to ask the Chief Justice
of India to look into this matter. It may
involve visiting Japan, and I am sure I cannot
ask the Chief Justice to do so.

I have sent you a brief message already
about the Netaji Hall Society.

Yours sincerely,

Jawaharlal Nehru.

Shri Amiya Nath Bose,
1, Woodburn Park.
Calcutta-20.

Ministry of External Affairs
(East Asia Division)

This Clipping is from.....Tribune...../Ananta Bazar Patrika
Published at.....Ambala/Calcutta
Dated.....13-8-1968

55/10

**Fresh Probe Into
Netaji's Disappearance
Demanded**

NEW DELHI Aug. 12 (PTI).—
Prof. Samar Guha, M.P., today
met the Prime Minister, Mrs.
Indira Gandhi and submitted to
her a letter signed by 44 mem-
bers of the Lok Sabha, request-
ing her to institute a fresh en-
quiry into the circumstances
leading to the disappearance of
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
The letter reminded Mrs.
Gandhi of a memorandum signed
by over 300 members in this con-
nection and said that an En-
quiry Commission consisting of a
retired Supreme Court Judge and
eminent publicmen should be ap-
pointed for the purpose.



S.S. Varma
Deputy Secretary

D.O.No. 29/48/69-poll.II

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA 16
गृह मन्त्रालय
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi
November 18, 1969.

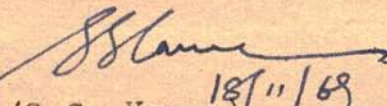
Dear Sir,

You might recall that the Cabinet at its meeting of 5th September, 1969 considered a note on "Disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945". In this connection, a copy of the letter from Joint Secretary to the Cabinet and the enclosure thereto is enclosed.

The Home Minister will be meeting the Members of Parliament who had written to the Prime Minister, on 20th November at 9.30AM in Committee Room No. 62, 1st Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi. I am desired to request that a senior officer of the Ministry of External Affairs who may be fully acquainted with the subject may please remain present in the meeting to assist the Home Minister.

with best wishes,

Yours sincerely,


(S.S. Varma) 18/11/69

Shri Manjit Singh,
Director (East Asia),
Ministry of External Affairs,
New Delhi.

(COPY)

D.O.No.10/21/CF-68 17

J.S. Mongia
Joint Secretary to the
Cabinet

Cabinet Secretariat
(Deptt. of Cabinet Affairs),
New Delhi.

September 11, 1969.

My dear Srinivasavardan,

Please refer to Cabinet Secretariat Memo No. 39/CM/69 dated the 6th September, 1969, forwarding a copy of the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on September 5, 1969 relating to the item "Disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945". While approving the draft minutes, PM has minuted as under:

"After much discussion, as far as I remember, the final decision was not to go further with the enquiry. My personal view is that we might explain the position to the M.P.s who have signed. I doubt if many will support Shri Samar Guha once the position is made clear to them. However, if there is a consistent demand, we may consider having the matter informally examined by a competent and impartial person."

A copy of the representation submitted by Members of Parliament to the Prime Minister on this subject is enclosed. You may kindly arrange to take further action as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(J.S. Mongia)

Shri TCA Srinivasavardan,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
(Lok Sabha)

Parliament House,
New Delhi-1

August 7, 1969. 18

Members of Parliament
(Lok Sabha).

Smt. Indira Gandhi,
Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

Dear Madam,

You will, we hope remember that over 350 members of Parliament made an earnest appeal to the Government to institute a fresh enquiry into the circumstances leading to disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Nearly 100 other Members of Parliament extended their oral support to the appeal as they were not present in Delhi at the time of submission of the Memorandum to the Government.

After a lapse of 20 years the Government of India very rightly considered it desirable to order for a fresh probe into the background of the murder of Mahatma Gandhi.

Recently the Government of India sympathetically agreed to a request made by a number of Parliament Members to institute a judicial enquiry into the cause of tragic death of the Jan Sangh leader, Shri Dindayal Upadhyay.

We trust that in a similar patriotic spirit you will accept the appeal made to the Govt. by an overwhelming majority (nearly two-third majority) of the Members of Parliament to set up a fresh enquiry Commission, consisting of retired Supreme Court Judges and eminent publicmen, to make fresh probe into the circumstances leading to disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

We fervently hope that the demand for a fresh enquiry about Netaji voiced by millions of our countrymen will not fail to evoke patriotic response from you. Let us not forget that a national duty to fulfil regarding Netaji is overdue.

Jai Hind!

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
N.G. Ranga (and others.)

(5)

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If there is a united demand, we may agree to the appointment of a judge to advise Government whether a further inquiry is warranted in view of the enquiry already made by the Netaji Enquiry Committee (Report 1956). ... ~~(S. K. Das)~~

In the serialized article run under the title of "The Emperor in the History of Showa Era" (Showa is the era of the present Emperor), the last days of Subhas Chandra Bose, Commander of Indian National Army, are described by former Japanese Army officers etc., who still are alive, as follows:-

"Catastrophe" (1) (Aug.27):

(Mr. Saburo Isoda, the then Chief of the Hikari Kikan, a Japanese special intelligence agency for Bose's group)

On the afternoon of August 17, 1945, a Japanese heavy bomber of Model 97-2, nicknamed 'Sally' by the Allied Force, was parked on the ground in the Saigon aerodrome. It was the plane by which both Lt. General Shidei, Chief of the Staff of the Japanese Army in Burma, and Mr. Bose were to be transported to Falien, in Manchuria. When the plane was about to take off, the pilot asked to reduce the baggages of Mr. Bose. An Indian officer named Saigal who claimed to be Chief Cabinet Secretary of the Provisional Government of Free India asked to wait for about half an hour to sort out the baggages containing gifts from about 3,000,000 Indian nationals in South Asia. About 5 P.M. the plane took off carrying only two brown suitcases brought into the plane.

(Mr. Tadamoto Negishi, a former member of the Hikari Kikan as interpreter)

Mr. Bose had wanted to take six members with him including Foreign Minister Chatterji on the plane. But because of the limited capacity of the plane, the number of Bose's party was reduced to Mr. Rahman, aid-de-camp of Bose, alone. The rest was off the plane in tears at the Saigon aerodrome. The Indian officers left behind were later captured in Hanoi by Allied Force.

Mr. Shiro Nonogaki, former Lt.Col. and Staff Officer of the 7th Army Air Division, who was chief pilot of the Bose's plane says: "In July, 1945, the 7th Air Division was disbanded and there was only one twin-engined heavy bomber of Model 97 left in the whole division, which, however, was in poor shape and could hardly be used on a fighting mission. Therefore, it was used only for communication purposes or for evacuating

21

Japanese strugglers in northern areas off Australia. Gen. Shirogane, Commander of the 7th Air Division, ordered ^{three} there staff officers including myself to fly back to Japan in the plane. But we found it not so comfortable an assignment to return to Japan in such a rickety plane. So we planned to return to Japan via China. Thus we three left Malan and landed in Singapore on the first leg of our exodus."

"Catastrophe" (2) (Aug. 28)

Mr. Nonogaki continues: "We came from Singapore to Saigon where we stayed at the Headquarters of the Japanese Army in Southern Region. We were to start on the afternoon of August 17 when at about 4 p.m. another heavy bomber of the same type as our plane landed in Saigon with Subhas Chandra Bose, and ~~wik~~ with Lt. Gen. Shidei who was on transfer from Burma to Talien. Lt. Gen. Shidei had been my instructor in the Army Academy. He asked me to operate his plane and so I became chief pilot of that bomber which was to Mr. Bose's party too. There were five or six members in Bose's party each carrying about two big baggages. So I asked the interpreter to reduce Mr. Bose's party to Mr. Bose and his one aide. At first Mr. Bose was reluctant but finally he agreed to take only Mr. Rahman with him. There were two trunks which did not look very heavy. Later I learned that they contained jewellery etc., donated to Mr. Bose by Indian residents.

Catastrophe (3) (Aug. 29)

Mr. Tadao Sakao, former Lt. Col. and Staff Officer of the Japanese 15th Army in Burma, who boarded the same plane, says that he learned while talking with Gen. Shidei that Mr. Bose and Mr. Rahman were going to Manchuria where they would try to contact Soviet authorities in order to prosecute his India independence movement. He says that it was only by chance that he boarded the same plane with Mr. Bose but it was a strange coincidence because he had fought with Mr. Bose's troops in the Imphal operation, while he was attached to the 15th Army Corps.

Mr. Nonogaki is again quoted as saying: "Although I was appointed Chief Pilot, the control rod was actually handled by Warrant Officer Aoyagi. I was told that this plane failed previously in landing in Singapore when the propeller was bent.

The propeller was not replaced but it was just provisionally mended by hammer. During the war, there were many such repaired planes in commission. But I did not know that particular plane was one of such dangerous planes. If I had known that before, the load should have been reduced much more. Gen. Shidei was allocated a seat just behind the co-pilot and Mr. Bose and Mr. Rahman were asked to sit on the passage-way in the centre."

Catastrophe (4) (Aug.30)

Mr. Nonogaki continues: "We asked Mr. Bose and Mr. Rahman to ~~to~~ squat on the passage-way because on the heavy bomber there was no seat as such. It was about 5 p.m. when we took off from Saigon aerodrome. Nocturnal flight was possible but we avoided it for safety reasons and landed on Toulon aerodrome at about 7 p.m. The aerodrome was located south-east of Yue. While we were nearing Formosa, we caught a radio news which said Russian forces were advancing toward Taillien. Gen. Shidei said that we had to reach Taillien before Russians. So instead of landing in Heito where we had scheduled to make a stop over, we headed direct to Taipeh."

We reached Shozan aerodrome in Taipeh about noon. Mr. Bose asked me then if the plane would fly more or less on the altitude to go to Taillien. Our original schedule was to head direct to Taillien in Manchuria and after leaving Gen. Shidei and Mr. Bose and his aide there, we would refuel and return to Japan by night. Mr. Bose perhaps felt very cold while we were flying at an altitude of about 4,000 ft., from Saigon to Taipeh. In those days, our army plane did not have air-conditioning device ^{aboard} the plane. When I told him that we may be flying at the same altitude of about 4,000 ft., Mr. Bose asked his aide to bring woollen jacket which he put on.

Catastrophe (5) (Aug.31)

Mr. Taro Kono, former Major, a staff officer attached to the 7th Army Air Division, says:

"We were to start from Taipeh at 2 p.m after refuelling and rest. It would take ~~xxx~~ from 4 hours to 4 hours and a half to fly from Taipeh to Taillien. In order to reach Taillien by dusk, we had to start at 2.00 p.m. at the latest. Warrant Officer Aoyagi

who would take the control rod had never flown a plane to Manchuria. He said he did not know much geography for this flight. But since we had a navigation map and we were on hand to help him, we thought there would be no difficulty for us in reaching Tailien. When checked the engines we found the left engine was vibrating a little. So we removed the engine cover and checked if there was any disconnection in the plugs. As far as we had checked the parts visible from outside, we found no particular trouble. We started the engines once again, when the vibration was gone. So we found the condition of the plane O.K. and decided to take off.

As a member of the crew, I should have worn gloves as a rule, whether I was to take the control rod or not. But at that time, I forgot where I had left them and boarded the plane without wearing gloves. We taxied the plane in the direction of north-east toward "Keelung" (port of Taipeh). As I was worried about the condition of the engines, I kept on watching the engine meter when I found the rotation number steadily increasing to 2,500; 3,000; 3,300; and finally it went over the permissible limit. I thought that it might be due to overload as we had filled the gas tanks to the maximum capacity. But I thought it would be dangerous to have the rotation of the engine kept at such a high level continuously. The plane however was already 20 meters to 30 meters off the ground.

I immediately thought something was wrong with the left engine and looked at it through the window when a shock came all of a sudden and I saw the left propeller torn off and the engine blown up. With the loss of one engine which itself weighed about 500 kilograms, the plane lost balance and leaned to the right. The first thing that the pilot should do at such a moment is to cut the switch of the engines to prevent fire. So I shouted to the pilot to 'cut off the switch' and I myself extended my hand to do it. But since the plane was already falling down at high speed, my body was pulled back and I could not stretch my hand to the switch. In this way we could not cut off the switch of the engines and the plane crashed to the ground. That was the cause of fire. If we cut off the switch, I think the plane might not have caught fire.

The plane was falling headlong on the bank at the end of the runway. The right wing and propeller were hit against the bank which somehow cushioned the direct impact of the crash. But the baggages loaded in the rear of the fuselage and broken equipments were pushed forward to the front seats by shock.

For about a minute or so, after the plane crashed against the bank, it still did not start burning. Gen. Shidei was lying down on his face under the fuel tank. He was bleeding heavily from the back of his head. He must have died instantly. The co-pilot Takizawa was also dead after hitting against the control rod. Pilot Aoyagi was groaning with his leg trapped in broken gadgets. I looked back at Mr. Bose but the auxiliary fuel tank which had caved in prevented the sight of both Mr. Bose and Mr. Rahman from my place.

Soon I felt hot, perhaps due to the fire which started. I pulled Mr. Aoyagi out of the trap and got out of the overhead window. No sooner had I made two, three steps than I was trapped in the flame. Then Mr. Nonomiya rushed to me and fished me out of the fire. Mr. Aoyagi seemed to have got out by himself. He was lying by my side.

Mr. Nonogaki is quoted as saying here: "As I was seated in the rear cockpit, I could not see the pilot seats and the place where Mr. Bose and his aide were seated. About 2 p.m. our heavy bomber started taxiing on the runway. No sooner had the plane taken off the ground that it started veering toward the right. It was much later that I learned the plane was previously damaged in Singapore when it crash-landed there. But then we had not the least idea that the plane was such a rickety piece. It is presumed therefore that a blade of the propeller previously damaged and mended provisionally was torn off as the pilot stepped up the pitch of the propeller rotation. The bank which Mr. Kono saw might be a pile of sand stored there to plug in holes which might have been caused by shells."

Catastrophe (6) (Sept. 2)

Mr. Nonogaki continues: "When the plane crashed against the ground, about one fourth of the fuselage was torn off at the tail cockpit. So Lt. Col. Sakai, Major Takahashi and Captain Arai who had been near the tail were thrown out of the plane..."

Mr. Tadao Sakai, then Lt. Col. and Staff Officer of the 15th Army Corps says: "As soon as the plane took off, it began to lean to the right. I saw a wheel or something flying backward. That much I remember. There I lost consciousness. When I regained consciousness at some roaring sound, I saw Major Kono crawling out of the fuselage, apparently his arms and face burned by fire. Then I saw Mr. Bose standing upright in the fire. Mr. Rahman was trying hard to put out the fire which was burning the plane..."

hard to put out the fire which was burning the woollen shirt

Mr. Bose was wearing. It was a hard job to get the shirt removed from the body of Mr. Bose. Mr. Bose must have suffered serious burns before he got his shirt removed.

It is presumed that Mr. Bose and his aide who were sitting on the passage-way were showered with gasoline from the auxiliary tank which was hung above their heads. Although he could get out from the broken part of the fuselage, he was trapped in fire as his jacket soaked with gasoline caught fire. We now think that but for this gasoline soaked jacket Mr. Bose could have been saved.... Mr. Bose was the first man taken to the Army Hospital in Taipei by an ambulance.

Mr. Kono, then Major, also saw Bose's aide Rahman ~~xxx~~ trying frantically to put out the fire burning Bose's jacket.

Catastrophe (7) (Sept.3)

Dr. Taneyoshi Yoshimi who was a medical officer attached to the Taipei Army Hospital, says: "About 3 p.m. on August 18, a man of tall stature terribly burned black was brought in by an ambulance. Two medics could not lift him. He was placed on a stretcher and carried by eight men including myself to the surgical treatment room. He was burnt all over. Not a single hair was left unburned on his head. Should a man suffer burns on the one third of the surface of his body, ~~the~~ cannot live. So at a glance I thought it was a fatal burn. But he was clearly conscious. His temperature was 39 degrees C. and his pulse beat was 120. I remember these details because I was asked frequently later by persons examining the case. I gave him the first aid treatment with another doctor named Tsuruta, applying plaster and bandages all over his body. We administered him four vita-camphor injections and two ~~xxx~~ digitamin injections because his heart was getting weak. And we gave him also Ringer's solution injections as much as 500 cc three times.

There was another doctor who attended Mr. Bose in the Taipei Army Hospital. He is Dr. Yoshio Ishi who now operates a clinic in Tokyo. He says: "I was in charge of a clinic of the Staff Headquarters in the Taipei Army Hospital. A little after 3 p.m. on August 18, I was sitting in my consulting room when I heard groans in the ward opposite my room. I went there where ~~xxx~~ I found four or five Japanese Army Staff officers in beds. And on the beds opposite them, there were two persons lying. They were big people and their

legs were protruding from the ends of the beds. Both of them had bandages all over their heads and chests. One of the nurses told me that one of the patients was Mr. Chandra Bose of India who had met an airplane accident. She said she could not put the needle in his vein for blood transfusion and asked me to do it. When a patient is weakened, his blood veins become thin. So it becomes difficult to put the needle in the vein. Therefore I agreed to do the job because I was a pediatricist and was accustomed to give injections to children whose veins are thin. I think I administered about 100 cc of blood transfusion to him with a syringe. I was watching him for about 20 to 30 minutes after blood transfusion because when I put the needle in his vein, the blood which flew into the syringe was dark showing there was little oxygen left in his blood, which meant that he was dying. I thought he might not live long; it might be a matter of few hours.

"I had heard Mr. Bose's name many times and I knew he was a hero. What I was impressed by then, was that he never expressed pain while he was still conscious. He was controlling himself. But the Japanese officers on the opposite beds were groaning terribly. I thought a great man must be different. When I was there, Mr. Tsumura, who was a teacher of English of the Taipeh Commercial College, was acting as interpreter between Mr. Bose and Army Staff officers who came to see him. What I remember are the words of Mr. Bose: "Did you send a telegram to the Chief of Staff?" Mr. Tsumura was replying then "Yes". I bowed my head toward Mr. Bose and left the room."

Catastrophe (B) (Sept.4)

Mr. Nonogaki is quoted here again: "Fortunately my injuries were not so serious, being slight burns near the ~~my~~ eyelashes. After being ~~x~~ treated at the hospital, I telephoned the Eormosan Army Headquarters and asked to send gendarmes immediately. Lt. Col. Takamiya came from the Gendarmerie Headquarters and I asked him to look after Mr. Bose who was seriously injured. Lt. Col. Takamiya took an interpreter to see Mr. Bose in his ward. Lt. Col. Takamiya asked Mr. Bose if he had anything to say. Then Mr. Bose told him to give his kind regards to the Emperor and Gen. Terauchi. When asked if he had any message to the Indian National Army, Mr. Bose said he had nothing particular to say. It was about 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening.

Dr. Taneyoshi Yoshimi, who was chief of a branch of the Army Hospital in Taipeh, says: "Mr. Bose fell into coma at about 7 o'clock in the evening of August 18. Vitacamphor and digitamin injections were of no avail. He breathed his last at about 10 p.m. Dr. Tsuruta, interpreter Nakamura and myself beside two or three Japanese nurses were by the bedside when Netaji Bose breathed his last. Mr. Rahman his aide was of course there. He looked so downcast. In the death certificate I wrote in katakana "Chandra Bose" for his name and third degree burns for the cause of his death.

Manjit Singh,
Director (EA & COORD)

SECRET
MOST IMMEDIATE/BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

28
December 3, 1969

D.O.No.C/551/10/69/JP

My dear Shri Varma,

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I enclose, for your information, copies of a series of articles which appeared in the Japanese edition of the "Yomiuri Shimbun", Tokyo from August 27 to September 4, relating to Netaji's death.

2. While we have not been able to compare the details of the evidence given in this paper with the evidence produced before the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee, we find that the broad conclusions are similar. Most of the persons interviewed in this series by Yomiuri Shimbun had, in fact, given evidence before the Netaji Enquiry Committee. You may like to bring these series of articles to the notice of the Home Minister before he meets the M.Ps on the 5th December.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

9c
Self
(Manjit Singh)

Issued
27/12/69
15.45 PM

Shri S.S. Varma,
Deputy Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi.

Immediate



सत्यमेव जयते

(7)
S.S. Varma
Deputy Secretary

D.O.No. 29/48/69-poll.II

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

गृह मन्त्रालय

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

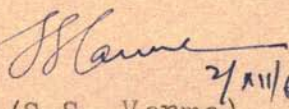
New Delhi
December 2, 1969.

5889 3/12/69
Dear Shri Singh,

This is to renew the request in my letter to you of even number of 18th November regarding the meeting of the Home Minister with the Members of Parliament to discuss the request for fresh inquiry into the circumstances leading to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. This meeting will now be held on the 5th December, 1969, at 9.30AM in Committee Room No. 62, 1st Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

with best wishes,

Yours sincerely,


(S.S. Varma) 2/12/69

Shri Manjit Singh,
Director (East Asia),
Ministry of External Affairs,
New Delhi.